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made room for more interesting and important material. Particular attention is given to economic plants, especially those which have medicinal properties.

The number of illustrations has been increased from 686 to 741. Many of the old figures have been replaced by new ones, and the colored figures, which have always been a feature of the book, have been much improved by recent methods. Both authors and publishers deserve commendation for the frequent editions which have kept this work so thoroughly up to date.—C. J. CHAMBERLAIN.

Alpine vegetation.

ONE OF THE most valuable of tasks today is the compilation and systematization of scattered material. Such a labor has been performed by Marie Jerosch⁴ in connection with the alpine vegetation of Switzerland. No claim to original work is put forth, although the critical study of 250 titles and the molding of discordant data into a harmonious whole are at least of equal value with most original investigations.

The work is essentially floristic rather than ecological. The first chapter deals with fundamental principles and motives, such as the origin of species, plant migrations, and polytopic appearance of species. The author is favorably inclined to all of the current evolutionary theories, and gives especial attention to Wettstein's seasonal dimorphism, and to mutation; the claim is made that Heer held a view essentially equivalent to mutation. The polytopic theory of Briquet is treated fully, but not very favorably. The second chapter considers the alpine and arctic climates from a comparative standpoint. The third and fourth chapters have to do with the Tertiary and Pleistocene history of the alpine regions. Then follows an account of postglacial changes, leading to a detailed consideration of the elements of the present alpine flora, together with their age and origin. Jerosch holds that an interglacial xerothermic or steppe period has been proved by the facts of plant geography, paleontology, and geology; there is more doubt as to a similar postglacial period.

There is no better illustration than that afforded by this book of the possibilities in floristic study. The glacial and postglacial floras of Switzerland and Scandinavia with all their vicissitudes are known almost as accurately as the floras actually in existence today. The fact that almost nothing is known of the glacial and early postglacial vegetation of America ought to stimulate many to study in this important and productive field.—H. C. COWLES.

Ecology of the Lena valley.

CAJANDER has given an excellent account of the vegetation of the alluvium of the lower Lena⁵, in which particular attention is paid to the genetic

⁴JEROSCH, MARIE, *Geschichte und Kerknuff der schweizerischen Alpenflora*. Leipzig: Wilhelm Engelmann. 1903. M 8.

⁵CAJANDER, A. K., *Die Alluvionen des unteren Lena-Thales*. Helsingfors. 1903.